

Semester 2:

3. Psychological Aspects of Aging 3 hrs
 - a. Discuss mental health issues related to aging
 - b. Psychosocial implications of life transitions
 - c. Demonstrate psychosocial assessment of the aging population
4. Gerontology Practicum- 4hrs

Course Descriptions:**Semester 1:****Biophysical Aspects of Aging – 4 credit hours**

This course will provide a foundation of normal aging processes and assessment of the older adults. The student will be provided the opportunity to explore physical changes related to aging and health-wellness perspectives as it relates to the aging process. The student will develop health promotion strategies to assist the older adult in achieving optimal health and well being. The student will be introduced to a variety of assessment tools and measurements of functional, cognitive and mental status that may be utilized in working with the older adult population.

Social Gerontology – 3 credit hours

This course will explore models of care as it affects the older adult. Concepts related to successful aging in the older adult population will be identified. The concepts of productive aging and civil engagement in the older population will be explored. The student will integrate factors of social, economic, cultural, spiritual, and ethnic principles as they relate to the aging population. The student will be introduced to public policy and how it affects the aging population.

Semester 2**Psychological Aspects of Aging – 3 credit hours**

This course will lay the foundation of psychosocial implications of life transitions in older adults. Psychological issues will be explored that pertain to mental health, well being and quality of life as it relates to successful aging. The normal and abnormal psychosocial issues will be addressed with interventions to promote autonomy, self-efficacy, decision making and overall well being.

Gerontology Practicum – 4 credit hours

This course will provide the student with an opportunity to apply concepts from previous coursework in the clinical or community setting. The student will complete a project within a clinical or community setting in which they will demonstrate the principles learned within the program. The practicum will examine the fundamental knowledge about care of the older adult, key clinical information, and issues central to caring for the highly specialized needs of older adults. It also reviews the financial, social, political, and cultural issues that affect the overall care for the elderly.

Completion of Certification Requirements:

- Completion and submission of an Intent to Complete Certificate Requirements form to the Registrar within the first two weeks of the final semester of study.
- Satisfactory completion of all courses within the curriculum with a grade of C or better.
- Resolution of all indebtedness to Methodist College of Nursing.

Gerontology Certificate Program

For Bachelor's Degree Students in Nursing or Health Sciences

Beginning in Spring 2014, Bachelor's degree students in Nursing or Health Sciences will have the opportunity to concurrently enroll in the Gerontology Certificate Program. The purpose of this opportunity is to enhance the marketability of our graduates in the healthcare environment. With more and more senior citizens entering the healthcare system, it becomes imperative for healthcare agencies of all types (primary, secondary and tertiary) to provide optimal care for these clients in a competitive market.

Purpose: The program is designed to provide the student an opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes conducive to the promotion of optimal wellness of geriatric clients. The certificate program will be comprised of 14 credit hours of courses, to be taken concurrently with nursing or health sciences courses with up to 10 of the 14 hours counting towards degree completion.

Program Outcomes:

Upon completion of the program the student will be able to:

1. Relate normal age-related physiologic changes to alterations in common body functions.
2. Investigate various service models designed to meet the needs of aging clients.
3. Analyze the influence of ethnic and cultural factors on older adult behavior.
4. Integrate health and wellness promotion concepts associated with aging into community settings.
5. Explore the psychosocial implications of life transitions to the process of aging.
6. Customize the response of an agency to the biophysical/cultural dimension of an aging population.

Courses: For detailed gerontology course descriptions, refer to the Course Descriptions section at the end of this catalog.

GER300: Biophysical Aspects of Aging: Health Promotion and Wellness in Older Clients, 4.0 CREDIT HOURS. (Gerontology Certificate Program)

Pre-requisites: Admission into Gerontology Certificate Program

GER310: Social Gerontology: A Multidisciplinary Approach, 3.0 CREDIT HOURS. (Gerontology Certificate Program)

Pre- or Co-requisite: GER 300 and Admission to the Gerontology Certificate Program.

This course can count as a social science elective OR upper level General Education course in a bachelor's degree curricula. This course is cross-referenced with PSY302, Adult Development and Aging, 3 CREDIT HOURS (ELEC) *Prerequisite: PSY101*

GER320: Aging and Mental Health 3.0 CREDIT HOURS. (Gerontology Certificate Program)

Pre-requisites: GER300 and GER310.

This course can count as a social science in a bachelor's degree curricula.

GER350: Independent Project/Practicum in Gerontology 4.0 CREDIT HOURS. (Gerontology Certificate Program).

Pre-or Co-requisite: GER320.

This course is cross-referenced with IDS 399 and can count as 4 credit hours of independent study in a bachelor's degree curricula.

Process to Enroll in Gerontology courses: GER 300, GER 310, GER 320 and GER 350.

To enroll, students must:

1. Be enrolled in good standing in a Bachelor of Science degree program at Methodist College and must have completed a minimum of 45 credit hours of 100 and 200 degree required courses.
2. Submit a completed "Intent to Enroll in Gerontology Certificate Program," application while concurrently enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program or the Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences degree program.
3. Meet with faculty advisor prior to semester registration in which you plan to register for Gerontology 300.
4. Register for classes. You may progress through the four courses in Gerontology, adhering to pre- and/or co-requisites, in any semester. You are not required to take the courses in consecutive semesters.

Certificate Completion:

1. You are encouraged to complete the Gerontology courses prior to completion of Bachelor's degree requirements since some of the credit hours may apply to both.
 2. If you satisfactorily complete all Gerontology courses with a C or better prior to degree completion, you will be awarded a Certificate of Gerontology at the same time as you are awarded your Bachelor of Science degree.
 3. If you have not satisfactorily completed all Gerontology courses with a C or better prior to completion of requirements for the Bachelor of Science degree or institutional withdrawal from a degree program, you may finish the remaining Gerontology courses within a year of degree completion or institutional withdrawal. All policies regarding progression, non-progression and readmission following dismissal apply to students pursuing a degree or certificate program at Methodist College.
- Any degree seeking student may enroll in a Gerontology course but will not be considered a certificate pursuing student unless he or she has been approved for admission.

Tuition and Fees:

Tuition and fees for Gerontology courses are the same as for degree credit courses.